

PLEASE NOTE: Legislative Information **cannot** perform research, provide legal advice, or interpret Maine law. For legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.

## **An Act To Allow a Student Attending Private School Access to Public School Cocurricular, Interscholastic and Extracurricular Activities**

**Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

**Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §5021-A** is enacted to read:

### **§ 5021-A. Standards for participation in public schools by students enrolled in equivalent instruction programs in private schools with fewer than 30 students**

A school administrative unit shall conform to the following standards in making public school resources and services available to a student enrolled in an equivalent instruction program. For the purposes of this section, "student enrolled in an equivalent instruction program" means a student otherwise eligible to attend school in that school administrative unit, including a student who resides in the unorganized territory, when the student is enrolled in an equivalent instruction program in a private school that enrolls fewer than 30 students and is recognized as an equivalent instruction alternative under section 5001-A, subsection 3, paragraph A, subparagraph (1), division (a) or (b).

**1. Participation in cocurricular activities.** A student enrolled in an equivalent instruction program is eligible to participate in cocurricular activities sponsored by the local school unit as long as the following requirements are met.

A. The student or the student's parent or guardian, on behalf of the student, applies in writing to and receives written approval from the principal of the school or the principal's designee. Participation may not be unreasonably withheld.

B. The student agrees to meet established behavioral, disciplinary, attendance and other rules applicable to all students.

**2. Participation in extracurricular and interscholastic activities.** A student enrolled in an equivalent instruction program, if that student applies in writing, is eligible to try out for extracurricular and interscholastic activities sponsored by the local school unit as long as the following requirements are satisfied.

A. The student agrees to abide by rules of participation equivalent to those applicable to regularly enrolled students participating in the activity and provides evidence that the rules of participation are being met.

B. The student complies with the same physical examination, immunization, insurance, age and semester eligibility requirements as regularly enrolled students participating in the activity. All required documentation must be made available upon request by the local school unit.

C. The student meets academic standards equivalent to those established for regularly enrolled students participating in the activity and provides evidence that the academic standards are being met.

D. The student abides by the same transportation policy as regularly enrolled students participating in the activity.

## **SUMMARY**

This bill provides that a student enrolled in an equivalent instruction program in a private school that enrolls fewer than 30 students is eligible to participate in public school cocurricular, extracurricular and interscholastic activities.